

F820004-1844

NO. 914

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Berlin, Germany, April 23, 1936.

1936 MAY 1 PM 1 12

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Division of
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
MAY 2 - 1936

Department of State

URGENT.

SUBJECT: Hermann F. Erben

1936 MAY 1 PM 3 04

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's instruction of April 10, 1936 (File No. 130 - Erben, Hermann Frederick) enclosing a copy of the Department's instruction to the Consulate General at Vienna, Austria, dated February 25, 1936.

With reference to the last sentence of the Department's instruction to Vienna and to this office's despatch of April 9, 1936, I have the report that Mr. Erben has recently called at this Consulate General to say that he is sailing for the United States on the S.S. "City of Hamburg" on April 25, 1936. His reservations on this ship of the Baltimore Mail Line have been verified by the local steamship agent.

Mr. Erben stated that his forwarding address for mail received at this office would be care of Dr. Rudolf Scharf, 330 Park Avenue, New York City.

Respectfully yours,

Copy to Vienna
1936 MAY 2

W. L. Sullivan
Special Assistant
General Counsel

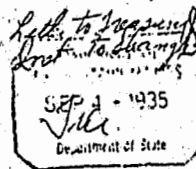
130-ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

FILED
MAY 2 1936

F820004-1845

NO. 1738.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
VIENNA, AUSTRIA. AUGUST 23, 1935.



SUBJECT: TRANSMITTING COPY OF POLICE REPORT
RESPECTING HERMAN FREDERICK ERBEN.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

- I have the honor to submit herewith for the
1. Department's information a copy, together with an
 2. English translation, of a report made to the Foreign
Office by the Federal Police Administration respecting
the activities of Herman Frederick Erben, who has been
the subject of several despatches from this office to
the Department the last of which bears the number 1696
and is dated April 19, 1935.

Respectfully yours,

Francis R. Stewart
Francis R. Stewart
American Consul.

Copy to the American Legation.

File No. 811.4.

FJS/mj.

- Enclosures:
1. Copy of Police Report.
 2. English translation thereof.

130 - ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

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RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEP 6 1935
10 22 29 PM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

F820 004-1846

COPIED: MJ.

BUNDES-POLIZEIDIREKTION IN WIEN.

R.G.St. 399/35.

Erben Dr. Hermann
Friedrich (von),
Verdacht des Rausch-
giftschmuggels.

Wien, am 19. August 1935.

Abschrift !

An

das Bundeskanzleramt, Auswaertige Angelegenheiten,

in

W i e n .

Unter Bezugnahme auf die telephonische Anfrage des Herrn Legationssekretärs Dr. Thun vom 18. Juni 1935 betreffend das Mitglied einer in Palaestina befindlichen oesterreichischen Reisegesellschaft namens Dr. Erben, welcher des Rauschgiftschmuggels verdächtig sein soll, beehrt sich die Bundespolizeidirektion (Rauschgiftstelle) zu berichten, dass eine Person dieses Namens bisher hieramts als Rauschgiftschmuggler nicht in Vormerkung gestanden ist, dass aber die nunmehr eingeleiteten Erhebungen Folgendes ergeben haben:

In Wien, III. Arzenberggring 19/IV/17 wohnte der Arzt Dr. Hermann Friedrich (von) Erben, (am 15. November 1897 in Wien geboren, nach San Franzisko, USA, zustaendig, evangelisch (A.B.), geschieden). Am 26. Juni 1935 gelangte Dr. Erben "nach Amerika" zur Abmeldung.

Dr. Erben ist naturalisierter Amerikaner, Er maturierte vor dem Kriege in Wien, diente als Einjahresfreiwilliger beim Feldhaubtmanregimente Nr. 25, war in den Jahren 1921 bis 1924 in Amerika als Matrose und Laborant taetig und kehrte nach Wien zurueck, wo er zum Doktor der gesamten Heilkunde promovierte, um, wieder nach Amerika zurueckgekehrt, als Arzt in einer Irrenanstalt und als Schiffsarzt bei der Dollar-Steams-Ship-Line in San Franzisko unterzukommen, in welcher Eigenschaft er in der Welt herumreiste. Seiner Stellung als Schiffsarzt wurde er wegen Verdachtes des internationalen Rauschgiftschmuggels verlustig.

Die vom Bureau of Narcotics in Washington herausgegebene "Confidential List" behandelt den Dr. Erben unter Nummer 249 und sagt ueber ihn Folgendes:

"Dr. Erben, for three years ship's doctor with the Dollar Line Steamship Company was recently discharged from the U.S. CUSTOMS because, it is alleged, of suspicion that he was engaging in the traffic of narcotics.

He is now

"He is now reported to be practising medicine in Shanghai and is said to be associated with a group of doctors who are handling narcotics. He is also said to have connections at Manila and Singapore and to maintain a residence at III Arenberggring 19 Vienna."

Am 7. Oktober 1933 war Dr. Erben in Wien, III. Arenberggring 19 zur polizeilichen Anmeldung gelangt. Er besitzt einen Auslaenderpass, welcher in Wien am 19. Dezember 1934 auf 8 Monate verlaengert wurde, dessen Gueltigkeit somit mit 19. August 1935 abgelaufen ist. Ein Inlaenderpass mit der Nummer 657.507, ausgestellt am 29. Dezember 1928, verlaengert um weitere 5 Jahre am 9. Dezember 1933, den Dr. Erben ebenfalls besass, wurde am 5. Dezember 1934 durch Durchloecherung entwertet und dem Dr. Erben ueber sein Ersuchen als Andenken an seine Weltreise belassen. Dr. Erben soll sich aber auch noch im Besitze alter Dokumente befinden, welche aus der Zeit seiner Taetigkeit als Schiffsarzt stammen und ihm allenfalls sein Fortkommen ohne Reisepass ermoeeglichen.

Durch fortgesetzte Erhebungen hat die Bundespolizeidirektion (Rauschgiftstelle) noch folgende Feststellungen gemacht:

Ende April 1935 hat der Student Max Reisch, (am 2. November 1912 in Kufstein geboren und dahin zustaendig, katholisch, ledig), Wien, IV., Starhembergasse 39 wohnhaft, gemeinsam mit dem Studenten Hellmuth Mahmann, (am 19. September 1915 in Wien geboren und dahin zustaendig, katholisch, ledig), Wien, XIX., Wuerthgasse 1 wohnhaft, mit Unterstuetzung der Steyr-Werke mit einem Auto der Type Steyr-100 eine Propagandareise durch Asien angetreten. Die Route fuehrte ueber den Woerthersee-Sueditalien-(per Schiff) Haiffa, Kleinasien-Persien-Hindostan-Barma-Siam-China und soll in Shanghai oder in Peking enden. Den Beiden hat sich Dr. Erben angeschlossen, der ihnen seine Kenntnisse als Tropenarzt anbot und ihnen ausserdem eine Reiseentschaedigung von S 5000 da fuer gezahlt haben soll, dass er nach China gebracht werde. Momentan befindet sich diese Gesellschaft, die offenbar in der Mitteilung des oesterreichischen Generalkonsulates in Palaestina gemeint war, in Kalkutta.

Ein Bekannter des Max Reisch, der in Wien, VI. Mollardgasse Nr. 40 wohnhafte Redakteur Josef A. Detoni (Telephon: A 31-2-69), bekam in der allerletzten Zeit von Max Reisch einen am 25. Juli 1935 datierten und aus Kalul (Kabul) stammenden Brief, in welchem sich der Schreiber ueber Dr. Erben beschwert, der immer wieder versuche, die Fuehrung an sich zu reiessen und den Mahmann gegen ihn (Reisch) aufhetze und mit dem Erschlagen drohe. Max Reisch erklarte in diesem Brief,

er fuehle

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er fuehle sich seines Lebens nicht mehr sicher, da Dr. Erben mehrmals erklart habe, der Tod eines Teilnehmers waere ein gutes Geschaefit fuer die beiden anderen Teile.

Die Situation der Expedition ist auch aus dem Grunde nicht guenstig, da sich bei Mahmann Zeichen auffallenden Gedaechnisschwundes zeigen sollen. Reisch hat in dem Briefe uebrigens die Absicht ausgesprochen, sich allenfalls in Kalkutta von Dr. Erben zu trennen.

Schliesslich wurde noch bekannt, dass dieser Dr. Erben, der eine vom Bezirkspolizeikommissariate Landstrasse in Wien am 8. Dezember 1934 wegen Uebertretung des Kriegsgeraetegesetzes verhaengte Geldstrafe in der Hoehe von 5.- S nicht bezahlt sondern am 2. Februar 1935 die Ersatzstrafe in der Dauer von 12 Stunden verbuesst hat, zu Beginn seiner Reise ein dickes Buendel Banknoten zu je Pfd 100'-- besass, das er an seinem Koerper vorsichtig verwahrte.

Aus der Zusammenstellung obiger Erhebungsergebnisse ergibt sich der dringende Verdacht, dass Dr. Erben, von dem nicht bekannt ist, aus welchen Quellen er seinen Lebensunterhalt bestreitet, den Anschluss an die sportliche Veranstaltung des Max Reisch nur zu dem Zwecke suchte, um die in der Aussendung der amerikanischen Behoerden angefuehrte Verbindung mit asiatischen Rauschgifthaendlern wieder aufnehmen zu koennen.

Die Bundespolizeidirektion beehrt sich mit dem Beifuegen hievon Bericht zu erstatten, dass je eine Abschrift des vorliegenden Berichtes dem Koeniglich Britischen Konsulate in Wien sowie dem Generalkonsulate der Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika in Wien mit dem Ersuchen uebermittelt wird, ihre Vertretungen im fernen Osten auf die Person des Dr. Erben aufmerksam machen zu wollen.

Dr. Skubl m. p.

03.11.38 10:30

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TRANSLATED: MJ.

COPIED: MJ.

R.G.St. 399/35.

Erben Dr. Hermann
Friedrich (von),
Suspicion of Narcotic
Smuggling.

Vienna, August 19, 1935.

To the Federal Chancellery, (Foreign Affairs),
Vienna.

With reference to the telephonic inquiry of Secretary of Legation Dr. Thun, of June 18, 1935, regarding the member of an Austrian party of travelers now in Palestine named Dr. Erben, who is suspected of smuggling narcotics, the Federal Police Administration (Bureau of Narcotics) has the honor to report that up to now a person of that name has not been recorded in this office as being a smuggler of narcotics. However, the investigations now instituted have disclosed the following:

In Vienna, III. Arenberggring 19/IV/17, there resided the physician Dr. Hermann Friedrich von Erben, born in Vienna on November 15, 1897, legal resident of San Francisco, U.S.A., Protestant (A.B.), divorced. On June 26, 1935, Dr. Erben was registered as leaving "for America."

Dr. Erben is a naturalized American citizen. He passed his final school examinations in Vienna before the War, served one year with the field-howitzer regiment No. 25, was employed in America in the years from 1921 to 1926 as a seaman and chemist's assistant and returned to Vienna, where he graduated as doctor of medicine. Thereafter he returned to America, where he found a position as a doctor in an insane asylum and as a ship's doctor with the Dollar-Steamship Line in San Francisco, in which capacity he traveled around the world. He lost his position as ship's doctor because he was suspected of international narcotic smuggling.

The "Confidential List" issued by the Bureau of Narcotics in Washington records Dr. Erben under No. 249 and says the following regarding him:

" Dr. Erben, for three years ship's doctor with the Dollar Line Steamship Company was recently discharged from the S.S. CARFIELD

because

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"He is now reported to be practising medicine in Shanghai and is said to be associated with a group of doctors who are handling narcotics. He is also said to have connections at Manila and Singapore and to maintain a residence at III. Arenberggring 19 Vienna."

a letter

a letter from Max Reisch dated July 25, 1935, sent from Kalul (Kabul), in which the writer complains of Dr. Erben who always is trying to usurp the management and stir up strife between Fahmann and himself (Reisch) and threatens to kill them. Max Reisch stated in this letter that he no longer felt sure of his life because Dr. Erben repeatedly declared that the death of one partner would constitute good business for the other two parties.

The situation of the expedition is also not favorable for the reason that remarkable symptoms of loss of memory are apparent with Fahmann. In his letter Reisch has, however, expressed his intention if possible to separate himself from Dr. Erben at Calcutta.

Finally it was learned that this Dr. Erben, who did not pay a fine of 5 schillings to which he was sentenced by the District Police Department Landstrasse, in Vienna, on December 8, 1934, for infraction of the War Weapon Law, but on February 2, 1935, served the contrary punishment of 12 hours' arrest, at the beginning of his journey possessed a thick bundle of banknotes of 100 pounds Sterling each, which he kept carefully on his body.

When associating the above findings, the strong suspicion arises that Dr. Erben, whose sources of subsistence are not known, should only have sought to join the sportive undertaking of Max Reisch with the view to resume a connection with the Asiatic narcotic dealers mentioned in the publication of the American authorities.

The Federal Police Administration has the honor to add to the above report the fact that a copy of this report is being transmitted to H.B.M. Consulate in Vienna as well as to the Consulate General of the United States of America in Vienna, with the request that they draw the attention of their representatives in the Far East to the person of Dr. Erben.

Dr. Skubl, m.p.

03115087030

September 12 1935

In reply refer to
FE 130 - Erben, Hermann
Frederick

CONFIDENTIALAttention: Bureau of Narcotics

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, and encloses herewith, in duplicate, for the confidential information of the Commissioner of Narcotics, a copy of despatch No. 1738, dated August 23, 1935, from the American Consulate General at Vienna, together with a copy of its enclosure and a translation thereof, in regard to Herman Frederick Erben, No. 249 on the Confidential List of persons suspected of being engaged in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

A copy of the enclosed despatch has been forwarded to the American Consul General at Shanghai, who has been instructed to consult with the Treasury representative at that place.

Enclosure:

From Consulate General,
Vienna, No. 1738,
August 23, 1935, (in duplicate)

FE:HCS:AT

9/10/35

PD [signature]

SEP 12 1935

F820004-1853

September 12 1935

CONFIDENTIAL - STAFF USE ONLY

To the American Consul General,
Shanghai, China.

The Secretary of State encloses herewith, for the attention of the American Consulate General at Shanghai, a copy of despatch No. 1738, dated August 23, 1935, from the American Consulate General at Vienna, together with a copy of a translation of its enclosure, in regard to Herman Frederick Erben, No. 249 on the Confidential List of persons suspected of being engaged in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

In view of the statement contained in the enclosure to the despatch from the Consulate General at Vienna, that Erben may attempt to resume a connection with narcotic dealers in Asia, the Consulate General is requested to inform the Treasury representative at Shanghai in regard to Dr. Erben's proposed visit to the Far East.

On August 8, 1934, Erben made application for an American passport at the American Consulate General at Vienna, at which time he stated that he had lost his previous passport, issued to him on November 15, 1930, and renewed at San Francisco on January 10, 1933. The Consulate General was authorized to issue an American passport valid only for Erben's return to the United States. Subsequently, Dr. Erben received

03:15:07:00

a

a duplicate Seaman's Protection Certificate, which he may try to use in lieu of a service passport. The expired American passport was canceled by the Consulate General and returned to Erben. No new passport was issued to him.

It appears that Erben also was in possession of a valid Austrian passport, which he stated was issued to him before he acquired American citizenship, but which was subsequently canceled.

Under date of March 27, 1935, the Consulate General at Vienna was informed that in view of the circumstances of Dr. Erben's case the Department does not feel warranted in issuing a passport to him except for his immediate return to the United States, and that such passport should not be issued unless he returns the seaman's identity certificate which is in his possession.

The Consulate General at Vienna subsequently expressed the belief that Dr. Erben expects to apply for a service passport under the provisions of Rule (g) when he arrives in China.

Enclosure:

From Consulate General,
Vienna, No. 1738,
August 23, 1935, with
translation of enclosure.

130 - Erben, Hermann Frederick

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RECEIVED
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SEP 10 1935
SEP 10 1935

FO20004-1855

NO. 1526

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

VIENNA, AUSTRIA AUGUST 9, 1934

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP OF HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to submit herewith for the Department's consideration the application for a passport of Hermann Frederick Erben who was born in Vienna on November 15, 1897, and became a naturalized American citizen at San Francisco, California, on November 10, 1930. Attached to the application is Mr. Erben's affidavit explaining the loss of his previous passport (No. 9486-San Francisco Series) which was issued to him on November 15, 1930, and renewed at San Francisco on January 10, 1933 (Renewal No. 392).

The application is submitted to the Department because Mr. Erben is No. 249 in the Bureau of Narcotics' confidential list of suspects under date of July 1, 1933. His Seaman's Protection Certificate which was found and delivered to this office by the Vienna Police Department, was forwarded to the Department with this Consulate General's despatch No. 1520 dated August 1, 1934.

Mr. Erben

130-ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

MM

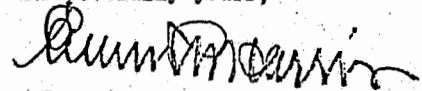
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- 2 -

Mr. Erben maintains that he has been residing in Austria since June 1933. The records of the Consulate General show, however, that he was here on May 22, 1931, and again on August 22, 1932. On both dates a record of the lost passport was taken. He maintains also that he is a bona fide seaman and entitled to a gratis passport. The Department's instructions in the matter are respectfully requested.

Respectfully yours,



Ernest L. Harris
American Consul General

Enclosure:
Passport application.

8729

File No. 130.8
FRS/OW

Passport Record

11-19-30

No. 1000

No. 1000

No. 1000

031130
30 Rev 1633
Cor 7-15-31
Ref. 1-17-33

F820004-1854

F820004-1857

No. 1316

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, NOVEMBER 12, 1934.

SUBJECT: ... REPORTING DELIVERY OF SEAMAN'S PROTECTION
1-1603 ... CERTIFICATE TO HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Division of
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEC 7 1934
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
DEC 7 1934

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 7 1934

I have the honor to refer to the Department's instruction of October 8, 1934, (File No. 130-Erben, Hermann Frederick), enclosing a copy of a letter dated September 24, 1934, from the Department of Commerce together with the duplicate Seaman's Protection Certificate issued to Hermann Frederick Erben.

The certificate has today been delivered to Mr. Erben after he had affixed his thumbprint and signature in lieu of a service passport which he states he can ill afford at present. He has been requested to notify this office of the date and port of his departure for the United States.

As a matter of precaution a copy of the Department's instruction dated September 24, 1934, asking for the latter information was sent on October 16, 1934, to all sea port consulates coming into consideration so they can be on the lookout for and report Mr. Erben's departure with name of ship

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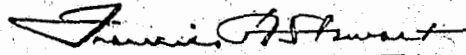
130 - ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

F820004-1858

- 2 -

ship and date and port of arrival in the United States.

Respectfully yours,


Francis R. Stewart
American Consul.

File No. 130.8
FRS/ow

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE
Amerikanisches Generalkonsulat
Wien am 16. November 1934.

Herrn Hermann F. Erben,
Wien III.

Es wird hiemit bestaetigt dass
Herr Hermann F. Erben amerikanischer Staatsbuerger
ist. Herr Erben ist Schiffsarzt und reist auf
einer Seemanns Identitaetskarte. Er beabsichtigt
nach Hamburg zu reisen und dort auf einem Amerika
dampfer anzumustern. Laut Vorschrift muesste
Herr Erben seine Seemanns Identitaetskarte abliefern
um einen regulaeren amerikanischen Reisepass zu
erhalten, und ist daher gezwungen mit der Identitaets-
karte zu reisen da er dieselbe zur Anmusterung be-
noetigt. Dieser Brief gilt nicht als Reisepass.

Francis R. Stewart
Francis R. Stewart
Amerikanischer Konsul



Handwritten: send by this office E.M. Hodgeson M.P.C.O.


Bundes-Polizeidirektion in Wien
Passamt

17. NOV. 1934

Antobestätigung

*Obige Bestätigung wurde heute h.a. für
Kontrollzwecke*



F620004-1860

(Translation)

American Consular Service

American Consulate General

Vienna, November 16, 1934.

In reply refer to
File No. 130.8 - FRS/ow

Mr. Hermann F. Erben,

Vienna III.

It is hereby confirmed that Mr. Hermann F. Erben is an American citizen. Mr. Erben is a ship's physician and travels on a sailor's identification card. He intends to travel to Hamburg and enroll on an American steamer there. According to instructions, Mr. Erben has to deliver his sailor's identification card in order to obtain a regular American passport and, therefore, he is forced to travel with the identification card inasmuch as he needs the same for enrollment. This letter has no value as a passport.

(sgd) Francis R. Stewart
American Consul.

Stamp: :Seen by this office
British: (sgd) E. H. Hodgson
Control:
Office:
Vienna:

Federal Police Department in Vienna
Passport Division

November 17, 1934.

Official confirmation

This above confirmation has been noted today by the
above-mentioned office.

Signature: [illegible]

Police Counselor.

Stamp: Federal Police Department
in Vienna.

TR: :ims

Followed by two attestations in English.

German
I.J.

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NO. 1633

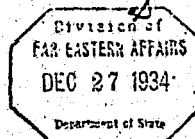


AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, DECEMBER 11, 1934.

SUBJECT: 1-1663

REPORTING ARREST AND RELEASE OF HERMAN FREDERICK ERBEN.



THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON.
1 copy kept in FE and
1 to Bureau of Narcotics
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RECEIVED
DEPT. OF STATE
DEC 24 1934

DEC 24 1934

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 24 1934

130 - ERBEN, HERMAN-FREDERICK
HERMAN FREDERICK

I have the honor to inform the Department of the arrest in Vienna in the morning of November 19, 1934, of Herman Frederick Erben, the subject of the Department's instructions of September 24, and October 8, 1934, (File No. 130-Erben, Herman Frederick). He was released on November 21, 1934, at 9 P.M.

According to information furnished by the Vienna police Mr. Erben was not, as was at first assumed by the Consulate General, arrested in connection with a general round-up of drug peddlers reported in the press at that time, but because he was suspected of carrying on illegal political activities for the national-socialist party. The subsequent police investigation did not disclose sufficient evidence to hold Mr. Erben on this charge so he was released and the charge was dropped. However, among Mr. Erben's effects the police found six revolvers, an expired American passport (which Mr. Erben swore on August 8, 1934, had been lost when he was on a bicycle tour)

03 JAN 08 1935

tour), a valid Austrian passport and an assortment of obscene photographs.

Mr. Erben reported to this office yesterday that the revolvers had been returned to him because he possesses the necessary licenses; also that both passports had been returned, the Austrian passport having been canceled, and about half of the photographs the balance apparently having been confiscated. The expired American passport (No. 9486 San Francisco Series, issued on November 15, 1930) has been canceled by the Consulate General and returned to the owner.

In explanation of the valid Austrian passport found among his effects, Mr. Erben maintains that it was issued to him before he acquired American citizenship and his two minor children were included and that in 1933 the police in Vienna had renewed the passport because of the inclusion therein of his two minor children who still possessed Austrian citizenship. In the meantime the two children and their mother, who is now divorced from the father, have become German citizens.

Mr. Erben maintains that his expired American passport was found among a lot of old papers and books packed away in a box in the garret of his home, a fact which he had forgotten entirely although he had packed the box. Mr. Erben was about to depart for Hamburg to seek employment on a ship when he was arrested and it appears now that he has the intention of going to Russia. He stated yesterday that he had learned that very cheap transportation rates were being offered to travellers

desiring

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FB20004-1864

- 3 -

desiring to proceed to that country. All sea-port consulates in Europe have been advised of the Department's desire to know on what vessel Mr. Erben departs for the United States and the approximate date and port of his arrival but this information has not been communicated to consular offices in the Far East, Scandinavia, or Baltic sea ports.

Respectfully yours,



Francis R. Stewart
American Consul

X 

File No. 130.8
FRS/ow

0315087030

ÖSTERREICHISCHE GESAMTSCHAFT
AUSTRIAN LEGATION
2343 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUSZUG aus dem Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Oesterreich
Jahrgang 1927; ausgegeben am 8. August 1927. 61.Stück.

Gesetz No.236. BUNDESGESETZ vom 8. Juni 1927, womit das
----- Bundesgesetz vom 30. Juli 1925, B.G.Bl.
No.285, über den Erwerb und den Verlust
der Landes-und Bundesbürgerschaft, er-
gänzt wird.

Aus Artikel 1.

" Der Verlust der Landeshürgerschaft tritt
nicht ein, wenn ein Landesbürger die Stelle eines Hochschul-
lehrers im Auslande antritt und wenn nach den Gesetzen dieses
Staates mit dem Antritt des Hochschullehreramtes der Erwerb
der fremden Staatsbürgerschaft nicht verbunden ist".

Gesetz No.523. VERORDNUNG der Bundesregierung vom 24.November
----- 1933, betreffend Einschränkung der Einbürgerung.

Paragraph 1. Die Landesbürgerschaft darf bis auf Weiteres
----- an Ausländer nicht mehr verliehen werden, es sei denn, dass
die Bundesregierung die Verleihung im Einzelfalle als im
Bundesinteresse gelegen bezeichnet.

03.15.38.10.30

Paßfragebogen. 5420004-1866

Allgemeine Geschäftszahl

Fortlaufende Zahl des Paßregisters

Paßinhaber		Event. Ehefrau	Event. Kinder	
Name				
Personalangaben	Geburtsort Datum		Name und Geburtsdaten	
	Heimats- gemeinde			
	Politischer Bezirk			
	Wohnort			
	Beruf			
	Stand			
Personsbeschreibung	Gesicht			
	Augen			
	Haare			
	Besondere Kennzeichen			
Eltern		Geburtsort und Datum	Wohnort	Heimatsgemeinde
Vater:				
Mutter:				
Paßamtshandlung			Gültigkeitsdauer:	
Paßgrundlage			Gültigkeitsbereich:	

Proventenjournal Nr.

Konsulargebühr { Tar. Post Unterschrift der Partei:
Betrag 0000000000

Paßblankett

Portoauslagen

Datum:

7820004-1867

MEMORANDUM

Kobe, Japan

January 21, 1938

Yesterday, January 20, 1938, Dr. Herman F. Erben, a naturalized American citizen of Austrian descent, bearer of passport No. 248504, called at this Consulate to endeavor to obtain the cancellation of the endorsement "not good for travel in China" which had been placed on his passport at the Consulate in Vienna on November 9, 1937 when Dr. Erben called to have his passport extended.

Dr. Erben stated that he had obtained employment in Vienna with the Chinese Red Cross, in proof of this exhibiting to me a paper in German apparently issued by the Austrian Red Cross, an affiliated Association. He stated that he had explained to our Consul in Vienna the purpose of his proposed trip to China and had endeavored to persuade the Consul not to place the invalidating endorsement; that, however, the Consul informed him that he would have to telegraph to Washington at Dr. Erben's expense to obtain authorization to refrain from endorsing the passport; that Dr. Erben's time and funds both being very limited he did not wait for such action but proceeded the next day to China. He added that he had been in Hong Kong and was proceeding to Shanghai via Kobe to take up his new duties with the Chinese Red Cross in Shanghai. He stated that the Chinese Red Cross organization was international in character, and that while in principle the funds should come from Chinese sources actually most of them would be

contributed by foreign agencies.

In

130-ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

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In view of the uncertain status of the so-called "Chinese Red Cross" and the possibility that Dr. Erben's purpose in going to China might involve some considerations of a political nature, I felt that he could not be considered as the ordinary missionary or doctor contemplated in the Department's telegraphic instruction of October 5, 5:00 p.m., with respect to the return of such individuals to China. I therefore called up Consul General Cameron and discussed the case with him and upon his agreeing that the matter should be referred to the Department sent a telegram for transmission by naval communication service through Yokohama (copy of telegram attached).

1/ Dr. Erben had stated that he would proceed to Yokohama to await the reply on this matter but this morning he called again at the Consulate and stated that he could not afford the extra time and money and was "taking a chance" on going to China this evening on the S.S. EXPRESS OF ASIA. He endeavored to draw out some statement from the Consulate in the nature of advice or comment upon his action. No advice or comment was given to Dr. Erben other than to call attention to the fact that technically at least he was violating the conditions of his passport by returning to China without the removal of the endorsement. He stated that he realized this but that his good faith had been shown in his attempting to bring the matter to our attention for proper action. He requested a letter to our Consul General in Shanghai indicating that he had called at this Consulate with respect to the passport endorsement

and

and such a letter was furnished him.

Prior to the first interview with Dr. Erben this Consulate obtained information indicating that he had proceeded to Osaka for the purpose of interviewing one Richard Gailer, manager of the Styrian Steel Works, 9 Minanusakaigawa, 2 chome, Minato-ku, Osaka. This Steel Works, it is understood, has its head office in Vienna, Austria, and is affiliated in some manner with the Steyer Werke in Austria. I questioned Dr. Erben as to the purpose of his trip to Osaka and in reply he stated that his visit to Mr. Gailer was through motives of friendship, that they had a very close mutual friend in the person of a certain Dr. Albert von Morini of Shanghai.

The fact that his mission in China as stated by him was not at all clear, and the discovery of the fact that he had some connection at least with the Austrian munitions industry, suggested the desirability of transmitting this additional information to the Department for its further checkup. With this in view, therefore, I telephoned Consul Boyce in Yokohama requesting him to send a follow up telegram informing the Department of Erben's connection with the munitions industry and suggesting a complete investigation and telegraphic instruction to the Consulate General in Shanghai upon completion of same.

File 130.8-E
 WRS/hjs
 Original to Department.
 Copy to Consulate General, Tokyo and Shanghai.
 Copy to Consulate, Yokohama.

* First telegram net having left two combined in one telegram.

F820 004 -1879

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

LMS

PLAIN

Kobe via N. R.

FROM

Dated January 21, 1938

Rec'd 5:00 p. m., 22nd

Secretary of State;

Washington.

PRIORITY.

January 21.

Letter to Tokyo
Jan 21 1938
copy
GAP
DIVISION OF EASTERN AFFAIRS
JAN 25 1938
Department of State

File answered
1-24-38

Herman F. Erben bearing passport No. 248504 departing for Shanghai tonight. Passport invalidated for China by Consulate General, Vienna November 9, 1937. Erben wishes proceed Shanghai to serve with China Red Cross. States this organization entirely international in character and funds derived chiefly from foreign sources. Now ascertained there is connection between Erben and ~~Steyerwerke~~ *Steyerwerke* Steel Works in Austria. Erben's mission in China suspicious. Please investigate fully and cable directly instructions to Shanghai.

BOYLE FOR SCOTT

NPL

130 - ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

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NC

F820004-1871

Telegram Via Naval Radio

Kobe, Japan
January 21, 1938

SECSTATE

WASHINGTON

January 21 Herman F Erben bearing passport
number 248504 departing for Shanghai tonight period
Passport invalidated for China by Consulate General
Vienna November 9 1937 Period Erben wishes proceed
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BOYCE FOR SCOTT

Richard F. Boyce
American Consul
Yokohama

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